

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001639

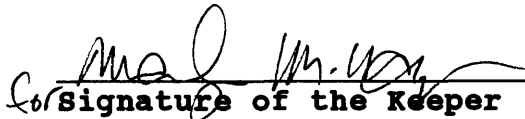
Date Listed: 11/15/91

Montpelier Historic District
Property Name

Clay MISSISSIPPI
County State

Clay County MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

7/10/92
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 10: This nomination is amended to show the acreage as 2.5 acres. The verbal boundary description is amended to read: "The nominated property consists of an irregular, roughly T-shaped area in Sections 1 and 2, T 16 S, R 3 E, defined as follows: From the southwest corner of the intersection of the north-south part of Hwy 46 and the east-west part of Hwy 46 in the center of Montpelier, proceed 100' west, then 120' south, then 100' east back to Hwy 46 (N-S); then proceed 196' south along Hwy 46 to a point just south of the south wall of the Cross-Sparks Store, then 238' east, then 162' north, then 122' east then 154' north, then 320' west back to the intersection, and another 40' west across the highway to the starting point, as shown on the enclosed sketch map."

This wording was provided by Richard Cawthon, of the Mississippi SHPO (4/21/92).

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site number Montpelier Historic District

2. Location

street & number Intersection of state roads 389 and 46 N/A not for publication
city, town Montpelier N/A vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Clay code 25 zip code 39754

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Clay County Multiple Resource Area

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool SEPT. 19, 1991
Signature of certifying official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patricia Andrews 11-15-91
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1886-1940

Significant Dates

c. 1886, c. 1891

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The three buildings which constitute the Montpelier Historic District are significant as the remaining historic evidence of the town's early 20th century importance as a crossroads town in developing Clay County, as explained in the Historic Context section of this document (pg. 6).

The name of the Montpelier community was originally attached to an area about three and a half miles east of the present town. But the peripatetic post office which carried the name worked its way west to the relatively new town of JoCross (or Cross-Katz, or LaCross -- all after the principal store owners), by 1891 and has remained there since. The former store building holding the post office, the house of the town founder, C.C. Cross, and the founder's store are the nominated properties.

C.C. Cross's house, now owned by Densell Brock, is apparently the earliest of the nominated buildings, c. 1886. The Cross Store and the post office date from c. 1891. All of the buildings are typical of the light frame construction and simple details found in rural commercial and residential buildings at the turn of the century. None exemplifies an unusual or original architectural idea or practice. All are important for their survival as examples of commonplace late 19th and early 20th century life and building practice.

Other communities which represent the late 19th century expanding farm-to-market road system that helped develop the county after the Civil War are listed in the Historic Context section of the nomination. Among them, Montpelier Historic District is the best remaining example of a commercial center important for its location on the roads which allowed for the development of an expanding agricultural economy in the areas not served by railroad lines. Many of these communities remained essential to local commerce well into the 20th century, but were superceded by regional commercial centers after cars and better roads concentrated business activity.

 See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See main bibliography.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 5 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
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3	1	9	5	2	0
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3	7	3	2	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation page.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the three properties which best define the historic development of the town of Montpelier and exclude newer, non-historic properties.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Embree
organization Preservation Consultant date 8/20/89
street & number 20 Lake Valley Road telephone (601) 324-0410
city or town Starkville state MS zip code 39759

Owners: Densell Brock, Mrs. John Sparks, Ms. Alice King, c/o Montpelier P.O. 39754

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

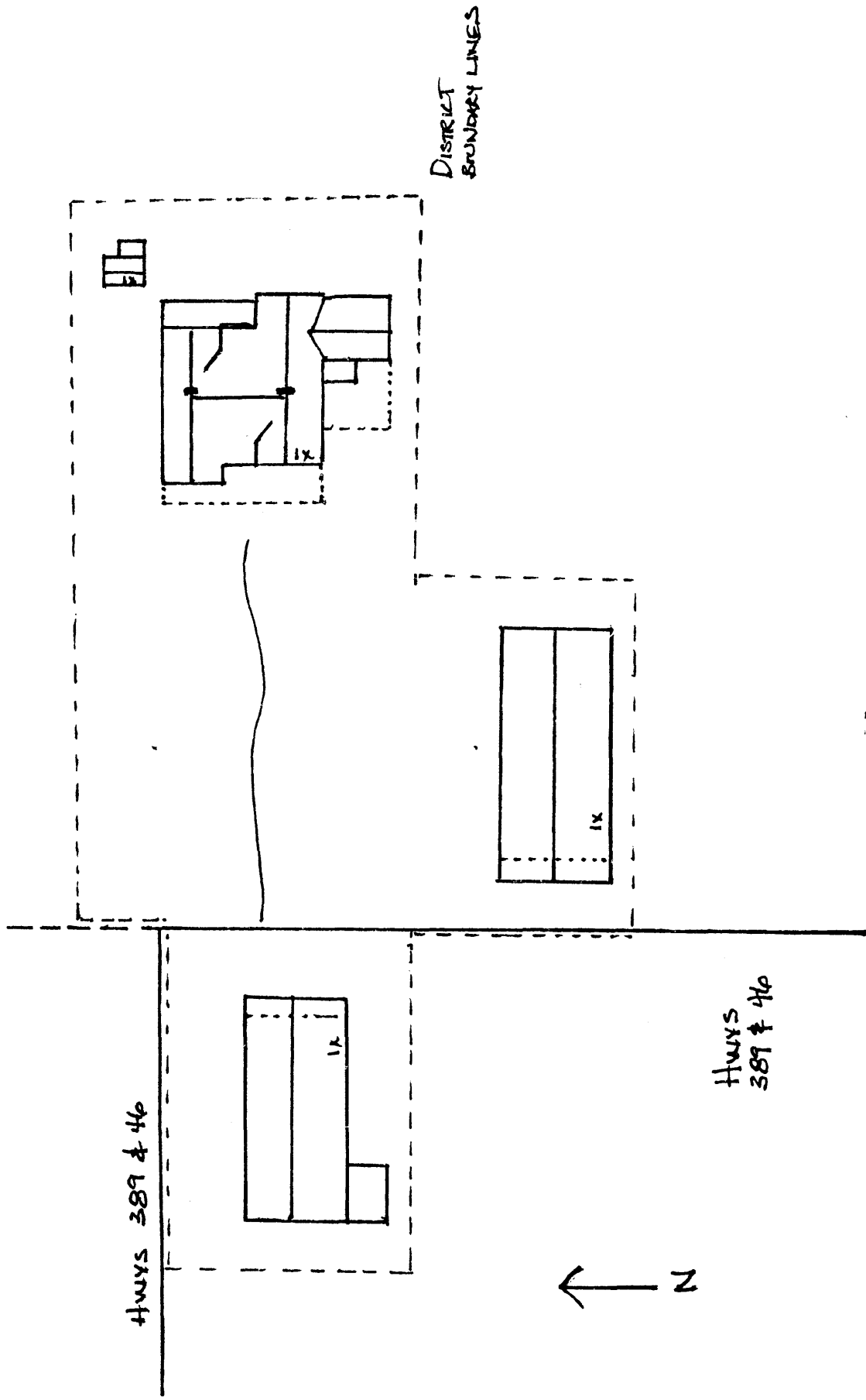
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Montpelier Historic District, Clay County, Mississippi

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Montpelier Historic District are based on the property lines of the three listed properties, all of which face State Highway 46. On the west side of the highway, the Post Office property included is the building and its associated yards, ending at the southern property line. On the east side of the highway, the boundaries include land to 25 feet north of the Cross-Brock House and then continue 25 feet to the east of the house cutting back to the west at the property line behind the Cross-Sparks store. The southern boundary on the east side is the property line of the store lot. (See district map.)



NOT TO SCALE



6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Commerce/Trade: department store
Government: post office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Vacant/Not in use
Government: post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Victorian Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick piers
walls weatherboard

roof asphalt
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Three buildings located near the main intersection in Montpelier represent the late 19th century origins of this crossroads town. The relevant buildings are the U.S. Post Office, the Cross-Brock House, and the Cross-Sparks store. (See photo #1.)

All three are one story, frame buildings on brick piers. The Post Office and the Cross Store have typical gable front, rectangularly massed rural store plans. Both have integral front porches on square wooden supports. Both have three bay facades (window, entry, window), with tall 6/6 double hung windows flanking double-leafed entry doors. The doors on both buildings are sets of five lights over paneled bottoms, set under two light transoms. (See photos # 2 & 6.) Surrounds on the Post Office are plain. Those on the Cross Store are eared and have milled molding at the edges with mitred corners. Both porches have wooden floors. The Cross Store's porch is set at wagon level. It has centrally located wooden steps. This store also retains its flush diagonal board security shutters on windows and entry. (See photo # 7.)

Both stores include living quarters at the rear. The apartment at the rear of the Post Office was built by Mrs. Mary L. King, who was postmistress from 1936-1987. It has been completely redone following a kitchen fire this year and retains no original features. The apartment takes in the back half of the store building and has a shed-roofed side room to the southwest. The post office section of the building has flush board walls and tongue-and-groove ceiling and floor. The post office facilities are located to the left of the entry door. (See photo #3.) They consist of metal post boxes and a grated window set into a wooden counter and cupboard. A pot-bellied stove is located at the rear of the post office area and store display cases sit empty to the right of the entry. The Cross Store apartment, formerly the owner's residence, has not been occupied in many years and is uninhabitable in its present condition. It consists of four rooms within the original rectangular massing. Interior walls are board, some with paper covering. Surrounds are plain except in the northeast room where an attempt was made to recreate the eared surrounds on the porch. Doors are miscellaneous, windows are 4/4 and 6/6 double hung. A domestic entry is located on the south side.

The Cross-Brock house is a one story, irregularly massed frame residence in the Victorian Vernacular style. It has a hipped and gabled roof pierced by two corbelled brick chimneys. (See photo #4.) Its exterior is covered by weatherboard. Its foundation is brick piers. In plan, the house has a central hall with three

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Montpelier Historic District, Clay County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

rooms to one side and two to the other. Original mantels survive, but chimneys have been converted for gas. A rear porch has been enclosed to provide kitchen and bathroom. (See photo #5.) The facade is three bay (window, entry, window). Windows are 1/1 double hung in frames with milled, mitred edge molding. The door is two-leafed. The molding-edged surround includes a four-light transom. A wrap front porch covers the projecting north ell and the entry. Its supports are wooden Tuscan columns. Additional details include wide fascia boards under front gables, cornice molding on the frieze board, and boxed eaves and returns. It was altered in the mid-1940s, when one room was removed from the south elevation and a shed was built in its place. A small, rectangular room is located under the shed. A non-contributing frame smokehouse, in deteriorated condition, is located at the northeast corner of the house.

The buildings in Montpelier Center are located on and near the combined State Road 389 and State Highway 46, just south of where the roads change direction from north to west. The intersection has been the major one in town since its establishment. The Cross-Brock House sits off to the east side of the road in a grove of trees. The Cross-Sparks Store is located on the road, to the south of the house. The Post Office, also originally a store, is located west across the road, in the corner where the combined roads turn. Newer stores and businesses have developed to the south, and the view to the north is of mixed old and new houses and the new metal firehouse and community center.

HIGHWAY 46

100'

120'

100'

Post Office

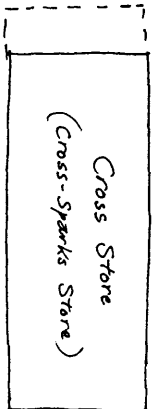
196'

40'

HIGHWAY 46

40'

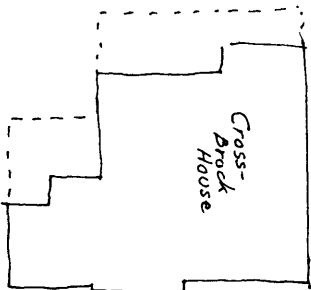
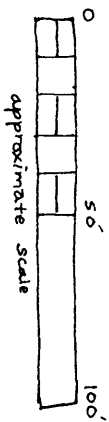
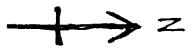
320'



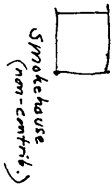
198'

162'

Sketch Map of
Montpelier
Historic District
Clay County
Mississippi



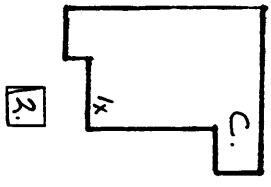
122'



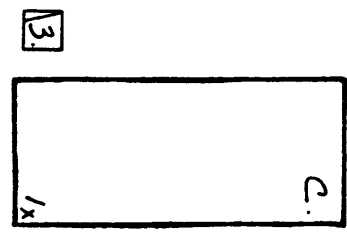
154'

[Signature]
21 Apr 92

CROSS-BROCK HOUSE



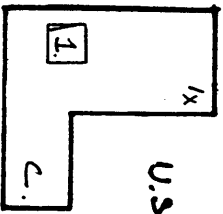
NOT TO SCALE



CROSS-SMALLS STORE

STATE HIGHWAY 46 - COUNTY ROAD 389

U.S. POST OFFICE



RATING SYSTEM
C - CONTRIBUTING

